

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8840

USICA WASHDC PRIORITY

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ICA FOR EA

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, OVIP, ETRA, JA

SUBJECT: OKITA MISSION: REQUEST FOR FACILITATIVE
ASSISTANCE

1. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONGRESS OF JAPAN, PRESTIGIOUS JAPANESE STYLE VERSION OF BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE WITH PARTICIPATION BY LABOR LEADERS AND ACADEMIC FIGURES AS WELL, IS SENDING VERY HIGH LEVEL "TRIPARTITE" DELEGATION HEADED BY JAPAN ECONOMIC RESEARCH CENTER PRESIDENT SABURO OKITA TO EC NATIONS AND U.S. IN LATE JUNE AND EARLY JULY TO "STUDY" TRADE ISSUES. OKITA, DISTINGUISHED ECONOMIST WHO IS PERSONAL FRIEND OF UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE COOPER AND ASST. SECRETARY OF TREASURY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS C. FRED BERGSTEN, HAS REQUESTED ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS AND INTERPRETER IN WASHINGTON JULY 5-7 WITH FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS: COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS, OSTR, CONGRESSIONAL JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND AFL-CIO. OKITA HAS ALREADY ARRANGED APPOINTMENTS AT BROOKINGS INSTITUTION (THROUGH PHILIP TREZISE) ON JULY 5 FROM 1230 TO 1530, AND AT JAPANESE EMBASSY ON JULY 6 FROM 1600 TO 1800.

2. IN MEETING SEVERAL WEEKS AGO WITH ECONMIN, OKITA

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INDICATED THAT WHILE MISSION DOES NOT REPRESENT GOJ AND DOES NOT WISH TO INTERFERE IN ANY WAY WITH ONGOING BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS IN TRADE FIELD, IT EXPECTED TO PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE IN DEVELOPING CONSENSUS WITHIN JAPANESE BUSINESS AND LABOR CIRCLES ON NEED TO DEVELOP POSITIVE RESPONSES TO EC AND U.S. COMPLAINTS REGARDING EXCESSIVE TRADE IMBALANCES. MISSION THEREFORE PARTICULARLY

INTERESTED IN VIEWS OF USG AND CONGRESSIONAL OFFICIALS ON CURRENT U.S. ECONOMIC PROSPECTS, RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UNEMPLOYMENT AND IMPORTS, CURRENT U.S. TRADE POLICIES AND ANY PENDING TRADE LEGISLATION, SPECIFIC PROBLEMS VIS-A-VIS JAPAN AND STATE OF U.S.-EC-JAPANESE TRILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

3. COMMENT: WHILE EMBASSY REALIZES THAT SENIOR USA OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN TRADE MATTERS HAVE RECEIVED FLOOD OF VISITORS FROM JAPAN IN RECENT WEEKS, WE BELIEVE THIS HIGH LEVEL GROUP MERITS SPECIAL ATTENTION. PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA IS EXPECTED TO MEET WITH MISSION BEFORE ITS DEPARTURE AND TO RECEIVE BRIEFING FROM IT ON ITS RETURN. IN CONNECTION WITH CALL ON AFL-CIO, WE SUGGEST THAT COMPOSITION AND PURPOSES OF GROUP, PARTICULARLY FACT THAT VICE CHAIRMAN IS AUTO WORKERS PRESIDENT SHIOJI AND OTHER LABOR REPRESENTATIVES ARE FROM STEEL ELECTRIC MACHINERY AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES UNIONS, BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF AFL-CIO INDUSTRIAL UNION DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR CLAYMAN.

4. LIST OF TEAM PARTICIPANTS FOLLOWS: OKITA, SABURO (CHAIRMAN OF THE TEAM), EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, S.E.C.J. AND PRESIDENT, JAPAN ECONOMIC RESEARCH CENTER; SHIOJI, ICHIRO (VICE CHAIRMAN), PRESIDENT, CONFEDERATION OF JAPAN AUTOMOBILE WORKERS UNIONS (JIDOSHA SOREN) AND VICE PRESIDENT, JAPANESE CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (DOMEI), VICE PRESIDENT, UNCLASSIFIED

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INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU); CHIBA, NOBORU, SECRETARY GENERAL, NIPPON KOHKAN STEEL WORKERS UNION; IKEGAMI, MATSUJI, MANAGER OF FINANCE DEPT., THE SHOKO-CHUKIN BANK (CENTRAL CO-OPERATIVE BANK FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY); KODAMA, TERUO, MANAGER OF MANAGEMENT OF CORPORATE PLANNING AND COORDINATION DEPT., AJINOMOTO CO., LTD.; KOMATSU, KOMATSU, RYUJI, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY, MITSUI & CO., (U.S.A.) INC.; KUWATA, OSAMU, VICE PRESIDENT, ALL NISSAN MOTOR WORKERS UNION; OGUNI, MASAOKI, GENERAL MANAGER OF CORPORATE PLANNING OFFICE, NISSAN MOTOR CO., LTD.; OKANO, MITSUTAKE, CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE (WASHINGTON, D.C.), MITSUBISHI INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION U.S.A.; SEKI, KAZUHIRO, VICE PRESIDENT, HITACHI WORKERS UNION; SEKIGUCHI, TERUAKI, PRESIDENT, PRIMA DEMOCRATIC LABOR UNION; TANIGUCHI, HISATOSHI, SECRETARY GENERAL, MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES WORKERS UNION; TAKAHASHI, JOHSEN (TEAM COORDINATOR), ECONOMIST, MITSUBISHI RESEARCH INSTITUTE INC.; TAKAHARA, NOBUAKI (SUB-COORDINATOR), ECONOMIST, NOMURA RESEARCH INSTITUTE INC.; UEHARA, TAKEYOSHI, INTERPRETER, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DEPT, SECJ; ISHIKAWA, KAZUO (TEAM SECRETARY), RESEARCHER, S.E.C.J.

5. TEAM ITINERARY: ARR NEW YORK FROM LONDON ON JULY 1,
1978 VIA BA 175 STAY NEW YORK HILTON; JULY 3 -
PROGRAM ARRANGED BY JAPAN SOCIETY; JULY 4 ARRIVE WASHINGTON,
D.C. HOTEL SHERATON PARK AND LV WASHINGTON, D.C. ON JULY 8
VIA EA 796 VIA NEW YORK TO TOKYO. FORSTER

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Message Attributes

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